

equate; having the key available only on a PC in the library is clearly not practical. Very few institutions are networked to the degree that one copy is accessible to all connected users, although that seems the preferred solution.

The three hard-copy volumes are attractively produced and seem free of errors. I only wish that author names had been added to the species descriptions and diagnoses in Volume 2. This volume will probably be the most intensively used of the three, and having the author names included here would have been very practical.

I strongly recommend this publication to anyone interested in Australian rain forest trees. Its key and the photographs of leaf venation are outstanding features, and I think this publication offers the nonbotanist a realistic possibility of identifying Australian rain forest trees. My only question to the authors: When can we expect a treatment for the rest of the world?—Henk van der Werff, *Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, Missouri 63166-0299, U.S.A.*

*Flora of Australia*, Vol. 50, Oceanic Islands 2. 1993. Australian Government Publishing Service, GPO Box 84, Canberra, ACT 2601. xxvi + 606 pp. ISBN 0-644-14446-7 (paperbound version), \$A44.95.

The fourteenth chronological volume published in the *Flora of Australia* series is somewhat of a departure from its predecessors. An editorial decision early in the project's planning resulted in the exclusion of the several groups of islands surrounding the Australian continent from the flora proper, and the compilation of separate accounts for the floras of these lands. The present volume details the vegetation and flora of a diverse group of islands, which includes Cocos Island, Christmas Island, Cartier Island, and the Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve off Australia's northwestern coast, the Coral Sea Islands Territory to the east and northeast, Macquarie Island, which is southwest of New Zealand, and Heard and McDonald Islands far to the southwest of the Australian continent. The companion volume 49 will contain florulas for Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands, the remaining islands.

Volume 50 includes approximately 500 species of vascular plants in 113 families. It contains one

new species, one new combination, two lectotypifications, and one neotypification, which are summarized in a short appendix. The organization of the main text is unusual. Each island group receives a separate summary of climate, geography (including a simple map), geology, vegetation, history (including botanical), use by wildlife, and bibliography, as well as a key to families and a useful table of species present, including an indication of endemics and introduced taxa. These occupy only the first 62 pages of the book. The background summaries are brief, but relatively complete, although given the small sizes of the land masses involved and relative simplicity of the vegetation, some mapping of the major vegetational types for at least the larger islands should have been included.

The bulk of the volume contains a combined treatment of the taxa within each family that occur on any of the islands. This includes keys, detailed descriptions at all taxonomic levels, synonymy, distributional summaries, miscellaneous notes on each taxon, and a citation of representative specimens. Each family also has a separate citation of pertinent taxonomic literature. This unique organization results in a volume that is taxonomically cohesive, with the species easily located in the text, while simultaneously allowing for convenient access to information specific to a particular island. A table summarizing the species shared by different islands and the percentage of each island's flora also present on the continent would be useful once the remaining islands have been treated in the companion volume 49.

Eleven contributors wrote the text for volume 50. As has been the case with previous volumes in the *Flora of Australia* series, the information in the present volume is wonderfully detailed and easy to use. The indented keys are clear and well constructed. The descriptions are of parallel construction within each group and use clear terminology. There are a number of abbreviations and contractions throughout the text, which are summarized at the end of the volume, and which do not detract from its ease of use. The descriptions of vegetation and taxa are beautifully supplemented with a number of graphics. There are 42 black-and-white plates illustrating about 100 species, the work of three talented artists. A beautiful color cover and frontispiece by Diana Boyer illustrates *Pandanus tectorius*. There are also 55 photographs (by 11 photographers) of vegetation types and species that are uniformly excellent in clarity and reproduction.

The Flora Editorial Committee and the contributors to this book are to be congratulated on the completion of yet another volume of the *Flora of Australia*, which continues to set new standards for elegance and detail in the presentation of flo-

ristic data. I am eager to see the companion volume that will complete the island florulas, as well as future volumes on the continent's flora.—George Yatskievych, *Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, Missouri 63166-0299, U.S.A.*